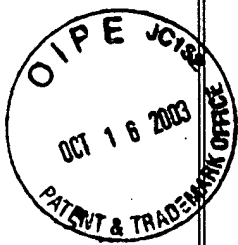


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of

RICHARD P. LAMOTHE

for: APPARATUS AND SLITTING, MERGING,
AND CUTTING A CONTINUOUS
PAPERWEB

Serial No.: 10/087,559

Filed: March 1, 2002

)
) Examiner: Kenneth Peterson
)
) Group Art Unit: 3724
)
)
)
)
) Our Docket No.: 4341-32-1
)

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RESPONSE UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 121

Dear Sir:

In the Office Action Summary, dated September 23, 2003, the Examiner has found five (5) distinct inventions claimed in the patent application. Claims 2 and 5 are drawn to Invention I for a paper web handling system having an adjustable take-up roller. Claim 3 is drawn to Invention II for a paper web handling system having a braking means. Claims 7, 13 and 23 are drawn to Invention III for a paper web

handling system having a angle adjustment means for the turnbar. Claims 8 through 10, 20 and 22 are drawn to Invention IV for a paper web handling system having pressurized gas perforations. Claim 17 is drawn to Invention V for a paper web handling system having a travel register mechanism.

Applicant hereby elects to prosecute Claims 7, 13 and 23 of Invention III, without traverse.

The Examiner has also found three patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Species A - Figure 1; Species B - Figure 2; and Species C - Figure 3.

Applicant hereby elects to prosecute Species C - Figure 3, without traverse.

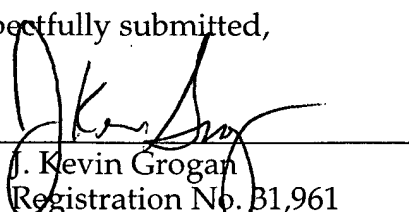
In view of this response and election, Applicant respectfully requests examination on the merits.

Should there be any question concerning the election of claims, the Examiner should not hesitate to call the undersigned attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Applicant believes no fee is due for this Response, however, should there be any deficiency in fees associated with the filing of this Response, please charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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Registration No. B1,961
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